Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00980 221101Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 L-03 JUSE-00 /015 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2891

UNCLAS DOHA 0980

FOR NEA/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PDIP

SUBJECT: HOST COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY

INSURANCE

REF: STATE 189095

1. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL AS FOLLOWS:

A. NO. ONLY AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER FROM COMMISSIONER/ CHIEF OF POLICE. THIS ORDER REQUIRING AUTOMOBILE OWNERS TO BE INSURED IS NOT BINDING.

B. THERE IS NO MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM INSURANCE REQUIRED. AMOUNT IS "OPEN". INSURANCE COMPANIES REQUIRED TO SETTLENLOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIM. IN CASE OF DEATH SHARIA LAW APPLIES. MAN'S LIFE VALUED AT QRS 40,000 (DOLS 10,000) AND WOMAN'S QRS 20,000 (DOLS 5,000).

C. NO. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT.

D. EMBASSY REQUIRES THAT ALL PERSONNEL CARRY AT LEAST THIRD PARTY LIABILITY INSURANCE, WHICH THEY DO, IN THE STANDARD AMOUNT OF QRS 150,000 (DOLS 37,500) PER ANY ONE CLAIM. UNCLASSIFIED

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E. NO LOCAL LAW EXISTS THAT PROVIDES FOR DIRECT LEGAL ACTION AGAINST INSURERS OR INSURED.

F. NO. (SEE E)

G. NO. (SEE E AND F)

H. INSURANCE IS OBTAINABLE ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS WITH NO ASSISTANCE FROM HOST STATE.

I. PREMIUM RATES ARE SAME FOR DIPLOMATS AND NON-DIPLOMATS.

J. NO. CONTRACTS WRITTEN ARE SAME FOR EVERYBODY CONCERNED.

K. NO.

L. NO. SEE B ABOVE.

M. TO DATE, PRESENT INSURANCE SYSTEM IS WORKING WELL AND INSURANCE COMPANIES ARE STANDING UP TO THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THREAT FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR THAT IF THEY DO NOT THEY WILL EITHER BE CLOSED OR EXPELLED IF THEY ARE NOT QATARIS.

N. CASE IN POINT. FOREIGN MINISTRY PAID FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY UNINSURED DIPLOMAT (NOT AMERICAN) WHO FAILED, AND WHOSE EMBASSY REFUSED, TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS ACCIDENT. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS AN ACTUAL CASE, IT IS NOT COMMON. EACH CASE IS HANDLED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

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2. INSURANCE POLICIES COMMONLY REFER TO SHARIA LAW
AS LAW APPLYING IN CASES OF ACCIDENT, INJURY OR
DEATH. SHARIA LAW IS LARGELY UNWRITTEN MOSLEM LAW
BASED ON KORAN, TRADITION AND PRECEDENT IN ISLAMIC
COURTS. UNDER SHARIA LAW, RESPONSIBILITY FOR
DAMAGES TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY ARE RESPONSIBILITY OF
PERPETRATOR OF ACT LEADING TO SUCH DAMAGES. COST OF
DAMAGES (OR PUNISHMENT OF CRIMINAL ACT INVOLVED)
MAY BE BORNE BY OTHER ON AGREEMENT OF ALL PARTIES.
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